

Testimony of Thomas McGlone

UConnPIRG

in support of

Proposed Senate Bill No. 67:

**An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's
Bottle Bill**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee, and Chairs Senator Edward Meyer and Representative Linda Gentile for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of Senate Bill 67, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

My name is Thomas McGlone and I am a student at the University of Connecticut.

Currently, the Bottle Bill covers beer, soda, and water with a 5 cent redeemable deposit that incentivizes recycling. But unfortunately the last update in 2009, which added water, did not include the litany of other beverages like teas, sports drinks, juices, energy drinks, coffee-based beverages. This bill would correct some of that but not all. We should update the Bottle Bill and SB 67 is currently a good first step, but it can be and should be made better!

I support updating the Bottle Bill for a number of reasons. The first and most obvious reason is that the bill works. About 70% of bottles and cans covered by the Bottle Bill are recycled compared to only 25% of those not covered by the bill. In addition, I believe that we have a responsibility as students to support effective means of helping the environment. Finally, Connecticut currently burns more trash per person than any other state in the nation, and I believe that needs to change.

In conclusion, I urge the Environment Committee to strengthen SB 67 and then pass it onto the Connecticut General Assembly. This is a good bill for Connecticut.

Thank you again for this opportunity to contribute testimony.